Dear Parents and Carers

The Governing Body at Osborne Nursery School plays a full and active role in developing the strategic direction of the school. We believe that we work together well to provide vital support in regard to the effective ‘day to day’ management of the school as well as a providing a clear focus on the strategic advancement of the school which is regularly reviewed and reflected upon.

Our base line commitment is to fully assist the Senior Leadership Team and Nursery School staff to fulfil their commitment to effectively implement their statutory responsibilities to deliver the full curriculum to benefit all children at the school regardless of race, culture, ability and background.

As a Governor who has served within the team for approaching two years I have been able to experience first- hand the strategic investment in skills to ensure that as a collective unit we are able to provide the best leadership to the whole School community. This is actively promoted to all Governors through a thorough induction process to review skills and experiences and add specific training to assist the effective administration of key roles within the team.

As a ‘new’ Vice-Chair and now full Chair of the Staffing & Finance Committee I was provided with additional training opportunities and this has enabled me to both discover and ensure that Osborne Nursery school maintains the highest of standards in this key area. Focus is maintained on standards through the use of appraisals and performance reviews, policies are consistently reviewed and updated plus all Governors provide regular visit reports in relation to their different areas of responsibility following meetings with key staff, parents or other members of the school community.

In addition to providing active support in regular meetings, reviewing data and assisting with strategic decisions relating to the school budget and improvement of facilities I have been able to ensure and affirm the best financial procedures are followed in some of the day to day aspects. This has included a full check up on petty cash procedures. At every point of engagement with the Senior Leadership Team and Staff at Osborne Nursery School I have been impressed at the level of attention to detail to ensure best possible practice. Attendance at Governor training events has consistently affirmed this reality that the Leadership at the school is accountable, committed to excellent practice and an early adopter to improved models of leadership.

I have had the privilege of being involved with the integration of the Rights Respecting Ethos into the life and culture of Osborne Nursery school. An excellent steering group made up of teaching staff, governors and parents have partnered to be one of the first twenty five schools in Birmingham to achieve the UNICEF Level 1 Rights Respecting Schools Award. We have successfully embedded a rights respecting culture across the school, with every opportunity taken by teaching staff and leadership to promote the value through teaching, learning and play. This has been done in innovative and creative ways to engage the children including the use of songs, craft activities, interactive exercises and the very engaging use of ‘Ronnie the Rabbit’ to help personalise the values for the children.

As a governing body we have actively pursued the strategic development of the Senior Leadership Team by encouraging the priority of collaboration with other Schools and leadership environments. This has been especially evidenced in exploring collaboration structures with the Birmingham Nursery Schools Trust to make Osborne Nursery financially safe and by joining with the Erdington Schools Collaboration to share costs and an improvement partner. The Governing Body have actively supported the Head Teacher to pursue constructive partnerships as evidenced by the rigorous use of training and development opportunities to ensure best practice. This value cascades into the staff team, an example being the use of ‘Peer to Peer’ support which has directly resulted in an improvement in learning group planning, tidy up times and the leadership provided by middle lead teachers.

The Governing Body at Osborne is consistently provided with valuable data to enable thorough and honest evaluation of progress. We are provided with regular and full reports by the Senior Leadership which we are able to both affirm and challenge where necessary. The environment and culture is collaborative as we look to serve the school community by ensuring that every opportunity is taken to both maintain the high standards already achieved and continue to progress by addressing areas where improvement is needed. There is an active commitment within the team to be honest in our evaluation of our own efforts and focus and under the excellent Leadership of the Senior Leadership Team we genuinely believe that we are pulling in the same direction to improve the school for the benefit of the children.

As a governing body we have recently been assessed for The Governor Mark which is a national award. It is a kite mark which provides external evaluation of the quality of governance in a school. We heard this week that we were successful in gaining this award.

I hope you all have a good summer holiday. Good luck to those children who are leaving us and starting Primary School and we look forward to seeing again those of you who are returning in September.

Regards

David McNeil

Vice-Chair of Governors